

## AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 38.

Please amend claims 10, 22, 29, 39-41, 43, 44, 46, and 50 to read as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for adaptive registration of a set of three dimensional medical images corresponding to a patient, comprising:  
prior to any resampling, estimating an amount of patient motion corresponding to the set of medical images; and  
selectively performing either a two dimensional image resampling or a three dimensional image resampling based on the estimated amount of patient motion.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein estimating the amount of patient motion comprises performing a motion estimation procedure that involves patient motion in a directional axis corresponding to a lowest image resolution.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the axis corresponds to an MRI slice thickness.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein estimating the amount of patient motion comprises performing one estimated motion procedure selected from the group of a two dimensional and a three dimensional motion estimation procedure in accordance with one motion model selected from the group of a rigid and a nonrigid motion model.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein selectively performing an image resampling comprises:  
performing a comparison between the estimated amount of patient motion and a correction threshold; and

performing the image resampling based upon the comparison.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the correction threshold corresponds to a fraction of an image resolution.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the fraction has a value approximately between 0.4 and 0.8.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the fraction has a value of approximately 0.5.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the correction threshold corresponds to a fraction of an image resolution along a lowest image resolution axis.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~9~~5, wherein the axis corresponds to an MRI image slice thickness.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the set of medical images comprises a set of imaging signals, wherein an imaging signal may be characterized relative to a background imaging signal intensity, a precontrast imaging signal intensity corresponding to a lesion, and a postcontrast imaging signal intensity corresponding to the lesion, and wherein the fraction has a value that depends upon at least one from the group of a background imaging signal intensity, a precontrast imaging signal intensity, and a postcontrast imaging signal intensity.

12. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein performing the image resampling comprises performing a first image resampling procedure in the event that the estimated amount of patient motion equals or exceeds the correction threshold and performing a second image resampling procedure in the event that the estimated amount of patient motion is less than the correction threshold.

13. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein performing the image resampling comprises performing a three dimensional image resampling procedure in the event that the estimated amount of patient motion equals or exceeds the correction threshold.

14. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein performing the image resampling comprises performing a two dimensional image resampling procedure in the event that the estimated amount of patient motion is less than the correction threshold.

15. (Previously Presented) A method for adaptive registration of a set of medical images corresponding to a patient, comprising:

prior to any resampling, estimating an amount of patient motion corresponding to the set of medical images;

performing a comparison between the estimated amount of patient motion and a correction threshold;

performing a three dimensional image resampling procedure in the event that the estimated amount of patient motion equals or exceeds the correction threshold; and

performing a two dimensional image resampling procedure in the event that the estimated amount of patient motion is less than the correction threshold.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the correction threshold corresponds to a fraction of an image resolution.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the fraction has a value between approximately 0.4 and 0.8.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the fraction has a value of approximately 0.5.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the correction threshold corresponds to a fraction of an image resolution along a lowest image resolution axis.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the axis corresponds to an MRI image slice thickness.

21. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of avoiding an image resampling in the event that the estimated amount of patient motion is less than the correction threshold by a predetermined amount.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for adaptive registration of a set of medical images corresponding to a patient, comprising:

prior to any resampling, estimating an amount of patient motion corresponding to the set of medical images;

prior to any resampling, performing a comparison between the estimated amount of patient motion and a first correction threshold;

performing an image resampling procedure in the event that the estimated amount of patient motion equals or exceeds the first correction threshold; and

avoiding an image resampling in the event that the estimated amount of patient motion is less than the first correction threshold.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the correction threshold corresponds to a fraction of an image resolution.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the fraction has a value between approximately 0.4 and 0.8.

25. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the fraction has a value of approximately 0.5.

26. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the correction threshold corresponds to a fraction of an image resolution along a lowest image resolution axis.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the axis corresponds to an MRI image slice thickness.

28. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the set of medical images comprises a set of imaging signals, wherein an imaging signal may be characterized relative to a background imaging signal intensity, a precontrast imaging signal intensity corresponding to the lesion, and a postcontrast imaging signal intensity corresponding to a lesion, and wherein the fraction has a value that depends upon at least one from the group of a background imaging signal intensity, a precontrast imaging signal intensity, and a postcontrast imaging signal intensity.

29. (Currently Amended) A system for adaptive registration of a set of medical images generated by a medical imaging device and corresponding to a patient, comprising:

- a processing unit; and

- a computer readable medium containing program instructions to cause the processing unit to:

- prior to any resampling, estimate an amount of patient motion;

- perform a comparison between an estimated amount of patient motion and a correction threshold;

- and select one from the group of performing a first image resampling procedure, performing a second image resampling procedure, and avoiding an image resampling in accordance with a relationship between the estimated amount of patient motion and the correction threshold.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the correction threshold corresponds to a fraction of an image resolution.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein the fraction has a value between approximately 0.4 and 0.8.

32. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein the correction fraction has a value of approximately 0.5.

33. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the correction threshold corresponds to a fraction of an image resolution along a lowest image resolution axis.

34. (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein the axis corresponds to an MRI image slice thickness.

35. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein selecting performing the first image resampling procedure comprises performing a three dimensional image resampling in the event that the estimated amount of patient motion equals or exceeds the correction threshold.

36. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein selecting performing the second image resampling procedure comprises performing a two dimensional image resampling in the event that the estimated amount of patient motion is less than the correction threshold.

37. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein selecting avoiding an image resampling comprises avoiding an image resampling in the event that the estimated amount of patient motion is less than the correction threshold by a predetermined amount.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~29~~<sup>2938</sup>, wherein the medical imaging system comprises an MRI system.

40. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 39, wherein the medical imaging system comprises a breast MRI system and the processing unit processes breast medical image data.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing program instructions to cause a processor to:  
estimate an amount of patient motion corresponding to a set of medical images prior to any resampling procedure; and  
select one from the group of performing a first image resampling procedure, performing a second image resampling procedure, and avoiding an image resampling in accordance with a relationship between the estimated amount of patient motion and a~~the~~ correction threshold.

42. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 41, wherein the correction threshold comprises a fraction of an image resolution.

43. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 42~~41~~, wherein the fraction has a value between approximately 0.4 and 0.8.

44. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 42~~41~~, wherein the fraction has a value of approximately 0.5.

45. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 41, wherein the correction threshold corresponds to a fraction of an image resolution along a lowest image resolution axis.

46. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium ~~method~~ of claim 45, wherein the axis corresponds to an MRI image slice thickness.

47. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 41, wherein selecting performing the first image resampling procedure comprises performing a three dimensional image resampling in the event that the estimated amount of patient motion equals or exceeds the correction threshold.

48. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 41, wherein selecting performing the second image resampling procedure comprises performing a two dimensional image resampling in the event that the estimated amount of patient motion is less than the correction threshold.

49. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 41, wherein selecting avoiding the image resampling comprises avoiding the image resampling in the event that the estimated amount of patient motion is significantly less than the correction threshold by a predetermined amount.

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22 wherein performing an image resampling procedure comprises performing a two-dimensional resampling if the estimated amount of patient motion is less than a second ~~equals the correction threshold or exceeds the correction threshold by a first amount~~ and performing a three-dimensional resampling if the estimated amount of patient motion exceeds a second ~~the correction threshold~~ by a second amount greater than the first amount.